

# Convent of the Good Shepherd “The Pines”

1942 – 1974

**Other Names:**

- The Pines
- Home of the Good Shepherd

## Details

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The Convent of the Good Shepherd was established in 1942 in a large home called ‘The Pines’ in Plympton. It was run by the Order of the Good Shepherd Sisters as a home for teenage girls. The first children admitted came from the Catholic Girls’ Home at Parkside when it closed in 1943. In 1974 ‘The Pines’ ceased to operate as a home for children.

In 1941 the Good Shepherd Sisters were asked by the Archbishop of Adelaide to establish a home in Adelaide for teenage girls with ‘behavioural problems’. The convent was established in 1942 in a large home at 336 Marion Road, Plympton, called ‘The Pines’. This home was originally owned by the John Martin family. Set on nineteen acres of grounds, it was remodelled to accommodate up to eighty children. By December of 1942 The Convent of the Good Shepherd was proclaimed as a private reformatory school for girls. This proclamation enabled the Home to receive children who were wards of the State.

Three sisters from the Order of the Good Shepherd originally ran the home. Later they were joined by five more as the number of girls increased. The first seven children to be placed in the home were transferred from the care of the Sisters of St Joseph, when their home for Catholic girls at Parkside closed in January 1943.

Although the Good Shepherd sisters took in some girls privately, the majority were under the care of the Children’s Welfare and Public Relief Board as wards of the State. These girls were placed in the Home after being convicted for criminal offences, or after being found by a court to be ‘uncontrollable’ or ‘neglected’.

Girls in the Home were required to spend their weekdays doing laundry work in the large laundry that was established at the Home. Income from the laundry went towards the running of the institution.

The government paid a weekly subsidy for each girl who was a ward of the State and it required the matron of the Home to advise the Board of happenings at the Home, for example if any girl became ill or absconded. By 1945 concerns were being raised by departmental probation officers about overcrowding at the Home.

In 1948 monthly visits to The Pines by officers from the department were instigated and their reports showed that girls at the Home were receiving very limited contact with the world outside the institution. Outings were very limited and no contact was allowed with any male friends, not even by letter. One officer raised concerns that girls were discouraged from talking about their hopes and plans for the future. After the reports the Archbishop agreed that some ‘trust outings’ for the girls would be introduced with supervision from government probation officers.

In 1956 with a change of matron at the Home the girls were divided into four groups of 12 to 15 girls with a nun acting as a house-mother to each group. New facilities and buildings were added to provide more space for

recreation and training. Problems with overcrowding, however, recurred in the 1950s and 60s, with the matron phoning the department in 1961 to say there was no more room.

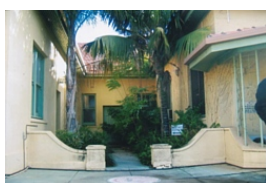
In 1965 there were 83 girls at The Pines. Approximately one third of these girls were wards of the State. By the early 1970s fewer girls were being placed at The Pines by the courts and the focus of the Home had become providing a home and training for 'delinquent' teenage girls. They were accommodated in three semi-independent living units.

In 1974, in an attempt to increase family involvement in decisions involving placement of girls at the Home, all referrals to The Pines were made through the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

However, also in 1974 a decision was taken to phase out residential care due to the increasing complexity of referrals and the limitations of large institutional buildings. At the end of 1974 the Convent of the Good Shepherd closed as a residential care facility.

## Gallery

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd - The Pines

**Description:** This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate. This webpage is no longer in operation. this URL is taken from the wayback machine and is dated 11 February 2019.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Home of the Good Shepherd, Plympton, a reformatory for girls of the Roman Catholic religion opened in 1942.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines 02

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: New building opened in 1946 showing the dormitories.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Another view of the new building showing the dormitories.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: The eastern front of the new building 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Looking from one of the main entrances into the grounds 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: One of the main entrances into the new building 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: The northern aspect of the new building 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines, Assembly room

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: The assembly room 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines, Chapel

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Portion of the spacious chapel 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines, Dining room

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Portion of the main dining room 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines, Dormitory

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Portion of one of the colourful dormitories 1957.

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### Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines, Roomettes

**Description:** This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: 'Roomettes are popular with the better class of girl 1957.'



### Steam laundry - Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

**Description:** This image was published in the Annual Report of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board 1957.

## More info

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Sisters of the Good Shepherd \(1863 - current\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, South Australia \(2004 - 2008\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Catholic Girls' Home Parkside \(1930 - 1943\)](#)  
When the Catholic Girls' Home, Parkside, closed in 1943 the girls were transferred to the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Plympton.
- [Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1927 - 1966\)](#)  
The Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" was run by the Order of the Good Shepherd Sisters under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board.  
Date: 1941 - 1966
- [Department of Social Welfare, South Australian Government \(1966 - 1970\)](#)  
The Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" was run by the Order of the Good Shepherd Sisters under the control of the Department of Social Welfare.  
Date: 1966 - 1970
- [Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1970 - 1972\)](#)  
The Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" was run by the Order of the Good Shepherd Sisters under the control of the Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs.  
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, South Australian Government \(1972 - 1990\)](#)  
The Convent of the Good Shepherd "The Pines" was run by the Order of the Good Shepherd Sisters under the control of the Department for Community Welfare.  
Date: 1972 - 1974
- [Vaughan House \(1947 - 1979\)](#)  
Vaughan House accommodated mostly Protestant girls as Catholic girls continued to be sent to the Convent of the Good Shepherd, The Pines

#### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

## Resources

- Kovesi, Catherine, *Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores: a history of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Tahiti*, 2006
- Gill, Alan, [\*Bad girls do the best sheets\*](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 24 April 2003
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999

## Records

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For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records

- [Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors \(1849 - c. 1987\)](#)
  - [Records of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, "The Pines" \(1942? - 1974?\)](#)
  - [Former Residents' Folders, Catholic Children's Homes \(1900s - current\)](#)
  - [Register of New Committals \(1931 - 1968\)](#)
  - [Minutes - State Children's Council, later the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1886 - 1965\)](#)
  - [Annual Reports of the State Children's Council and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department \(1887 - 1960\)](#)
  - [Lists of state wards, Social Welfare Department and Predecessors \(1960 - 1960\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files \('CW & PRD' and 'SW' files\) -Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department and successors \(1927 - c. 1979\)](#)
  - [Photographs of Departmental institutions, Social Welfare Department and Predecessors \(1945 - 1970\)](#)
  - [Annual Reports - Department for Families and Community Services and predecessor agencies \(1971 - 1997\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/convent-of-the-good-shepherd-the-pines-8/>